

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 140456
ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 IO-14 ISO-00 PRS-01 H-02
SSM-05 SIG-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 ACDA-10
TRSE-00 /120 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/P:REUNDELAND:RGH

APPROVED BY NEA/P:REUNDELAND

S/PRS - MR. CARTER (INFO)

H - MR. FLATEN (INFO)

SSM - MR. MC ANDREW

NEA - MR. COLLUMS

NEA/ARN - MR. REUTHER

-----171134Z 109761 /14

R 162234Z JUN 77

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

USINT BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY SANA

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

USMISSION SINAI

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

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USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
USCINCEUR

UNCLAS STATE 140456

CINCEUR FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING - JUNE 16

FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE, FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS
FROM DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN'S PRESS BRIEFING FOR JUNE 16,
1977:

Q. AN ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL YESTERDAY SAID THAT MR.
VANCE WOULD BE GOING TO THE MIDDLE EAST IN JULY; AND I
UNDERSTAND THERE'S SOME SKEPTICISM, AT LEAST IN ISRAEL,
THAT HE COULD GET THERE THE FIRST HALF OF THE MONTH. CAN
YOU NARROW THAT DOWN AND ALSO SAY WHETHER THE PLAN STILL
IS TO HAVE BEGIN COME HERE AND SEE MR. CARTER BEFORE MR.
VANCE GOES?

A. I CAN'T BE MORE PRECISE ABOUT THE MIDDLE EAST TRIP
THAN I THINK THE ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL TO WHOM YOU
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REFER WAS. AS FAR AS BEGIN'S VISIT HERE IS CONCERNED, I
CAN ONLY REPEAT, AS I THINK THE PRESIDENT HAS SAID, THAT
HE WOULD LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING HIM HERE AS SOON AS OR
WHEN IT IS CONVENIENT FOR HIM TO COME AFTER HE HAS FORMED
HIS GOVERNMENT.

Q. IT, AS FAR AS YOU KNOW, REMAINS A PRECONDITION?

A. NO, I DON'T KNOW THAT WE'VE EVER SAID IT'S A
PRECONDITION.

Q. WELL, MUST YOU CLEAR THAT HURDLE BEFORE VANCE CAN BE
ON HIS WAY, OR CAN BEGIN COME HERE WHEN VANCE IS GONE OR
BACK OR WHATEVER?

A. I CAN'T REALLY ANSWER YOU THAT WAY. I CAN ONLY
SAY -- REPEAT TO YOU -- WHAT THE PRESIDENT HAS INDICATED
HE WOULD LIKE TO DO. I WOULDN'T WANT TO GET INTO THE
BUSINESS OF WHETHER THERE ARE PRECONDITIONS OR HURDLES

TO CLEAR.

Q. SENATOR STONE THIS MORNING AT A SPECIAL PRESS CONFERENCE PROPOSED THAT AT THE LOWER LEVEL SHOULD START IMMEDIATELY BETWEEN ISRAEL AND HER ARAB NEIGHBORS; AND HE SAID THAT HIS PROPOSAL WAS PUT TO SECRETARY VANCE. DO YOU HAVE ANY COMMENT ON THAT?

A. NO PARTICULAR COMMENT, NO. WE NOTE THE SENATOR'S VIEWS AND WE OBVIOUSLY ALWAYS WELCOME POINTS OF VIEW EXPRESSED BY THE MEMBERS OF CONGRESS; BUT I DON'T HAVE ANY PARTICULAR COMMENT ON IT. NO.

Q. IS IT GOING TO BE PURSUED BY THIS DEPARTMENT?

A. I THINK THAT WE'VE SAID THAT WE ARE STILL IN THE PROCESS OF CONSULTING ALL OF THE COUNTRIES IN THE MIDDLE

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EAST WHO ARE A PARTY TO THE EFFORT TO SETTLE THE PROBLEM, AND I CAN'T AT THIS POINT TELL YOU THAT WE ARE GOING TO PURSUE THIS POLICY OR THAT POLICY EXCEPT ON THE GENERAL BROAD OUTLINES THAT WE HAVE CONSTANTLY REPEATED.

Q. WELL, THAT IS WHERE IT IS CONFUSING. I THOUGHT THE CONSULTATION PROCESS WAS ABOUT AT THE END, WITH THE POSSIBLE EXCEPTION OF MR. BEGIN AND THAT WE ARE READY TO MOVE INTO THE NEXT STAGE, WHICH IS TO COME WITH--YOU KNOW--WITH FAIRLY SPECIFIC IDEAS. HERE IS ONE. DON'T YOU HAVE ANY POSITION ON IT?

A. I SAID I DON'T HAVE ANY COMMENT ON IT--ANY MORE THAN WE HAVE HAD COMMENTS ON VARIOUS OTHER IDEAS SUGGESTED TO US FROM VARIOUS OTHER DIRECTIONS. AT THIS POINT I DON'T THINK WE ARE GOING TO COMMENT ON ANY OF THEM.

CHRISTOPHER

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